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"IN A PARK"  
By JULES PAGES

## Jules Pages—An American Artist

By LOUISE E. TABER

THE exhibition of pictures that has created the widest interest among art lovers in San Francisco this year is the collection of oil paintings, landscape and interiors, from the brush of Jules Pagès, shown at the Rabjohn and Morcom gallery. Pagès is a San Franciscan whose talent has won for him the highest honors during the twenty-five years that he has made his home in Paris: Mention Honorable, Paris Salon, 1895; Gold Medal, Paris Salon, 1899; Gold Medal, Hors Concours, Paris Salon, 1905; Salon Pictures, 1906-1910, bought by the French Government; made Knight of the Legion of Honor, 1910.

Pagès gives us ample proof that "a pic-

ture is a poem without words," and such is his genius that he can create these "poems" from the most humble of life's subjects, finding beauties that are revealed only to those who have a reverence for nature and whose insight is quickened by a light from within. His love for the peasantry reminds us of Millet. One of Pagès' canvases called "*Janic, a Peasant Girl, Brittany*" is a figure in a landscape that only a master hand would dare attempt, with its difficult blending of dull grays. He has made a keen study of peasant women, and he paints them with all their rugged strength, yet there is a gentleness and a sentiment that make them figures of ro-

mance. In two interiors, "*The Room Where Renan Was Born, Brittany*" and "*A Peasant Interior, Brittany*," Pagès expresses his understanding, his sympathetic grasp of the humble life. Although there are no figures in either picture, only a black cat dozing before the open fireplace in Renan's room, we feel the intimate human nearness. He infuses every picture with life. "*An Old Canal, Bruges*" is a beautiful study in dark green, reproduced with restful, romantic charm. The canal seems to be asleep, after watching for long years the romances and mysteries of those who dwell in the neighboring houses, quaint old homes, guarded over by the Madonna. "*Weeding Her Garden*" is a study in sunshine and shadow. The old woman, bending over the task she

loves, is a gentle figure. All the canvases have the reality and the grasp of the master, who, knowing life can make a perfect and poetic reproduction of the commonplace. The picture that is, perhaps, the masterpiece of the collection is called "*A Fisherman's Hut, Brittany*." There is something—the magic spark of life—that gives us a glimpse into the very depths of the painter's genius. The picturesque old hut, perched on the rocky shore, its roof bright red, the red sails of the two boats with their brilliant color, reflected a little less vividly in the shallow water, and the dull red of the bricks near the steps in the foreground, make a striking study of many shades of red in contrast with the creamy plaster hut and the plaster-covered rock



"AN OLD CANAL-BRUGES"  
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